

A

REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, October 29. 1709.

I Have been speaking about the spreading of the *Plague* in *Europe*——and perhaps have, as you may think, too boldly talk'd of Things not yet known; such as whether the *Plague* shall or shall not spread it self from the *East Country* hither. And yet, without Pretence to Impulses, Agitations, or Prophecies, I am still bold to say, we are under very comfortable Views of missing the *Infection* here this Season— But if the War in the *North*, which some say is begun, and most People agree is determin'd, should break out—I cannot but, with more Assurance than usual, foretell you, it shall visit a great Part of *Europe*, and Us among the rest.

But this is talking of Evils a great Way off, and will merit no more of your REGARD, than my former Discourse of the King of *Sweden* did; when I told you, he was not serving the Cause and Interest of the Protestant Religion AS SUCH, but pursuing his own Ambition, in which GOD would disappoint him. REV. N° 80. Vol.V. And that if he enter'd *Muscovy*, he would be undone in the End— And that his *PIPER* would lead him such a Dance, that he would find it difficult to get back again— I pretended to no Witch-craft in all these, and yet they are all come to pass.

Now give me leave to lay something to the Views we have of the *Northern Affairs*,
and

and I will be as positive with you as I was with him ; you may resent it, if you please, as he did— The present Attempt against the King of Sweden seems to favour of the same Spirit, that his Attempt against Muscovy did ; and unless it pleases GOD to act in this contrary, in some measure, to the usual Way of his Providence in the World—it shall succeed in the same or like manner— Nor does the Blessing of GOD go with it at all—Nay, humantly speaking, it cannot have his Blessing—for it visibly points against what his Interest calls for, and his Hand has bless'd in the rest of Europe's Affairs.

The League against the King of Sweden, as now they say it is form'd, is between the Dane, the Prussian, the Pole, and the Muscovite—I have nothing to say about the dishonourable Manner of falling upon him, while under the Distress of his late Misfortunes : These Things are such Trifles among the Princes of Europe in these late Ages of War, That really they become Legitimate by Custom : Fair Fighting, declaring War, just Grounds of Quarrels, making Demands for Satisfaction in a peaceable Way, and the like, These are become so obsolete, and so out of Fashion in the World, that it is not worth while to insist upon them. The Odds of Four Powers to One, or if they were Fourteen to One, it makes nothing one way or other in this Case—falling on the Swedes, when their King is fugitive, and the People under a Confection at his Disaster— All this is nothing ; I wonder rather, some Neighbouring Prince does not fall upon the poor Danes, and seize that City now depopulated with the Plague, and unable to defend it self— And perhaps if the Fear of the Infection did not protec't them, it would not be long before it was so—that City having been often attempted in vain by its Neighbouring Potentates.

But waving this Part of the Argument, let us see, why the Dane and the Prussian, should fall on the Swede at this time : I will not say they have no old Demands upon him, I will not debate the Claim of the Danes to Schonen, or of the Prussian to Pomeran, and the City of Stein ; but this

I dare say openly, without Fear of any One's Resentment—By various Treaties of Peace, the Dane has conceded to the Swedes the Possession of Schonen, and the Prussian return'd to the Swedes the City of Stein, and what else he was posses'd of on that side— And Peace has been made for many Years between these Kings, upon the Foot of these Concessions, as may be seen in the several Treaties of Copenhagen, Travendal, and Nimeguen—And to this Day we see no Claim reviv'd— Nothing appears as the imminent Ground of a new War—but the Battle of PULTOWA, or in English, the Swedes being beaten ; this is in plainer English, The low Condition of the Swedes legitimates the War—and the Claim is justify'd from the Opportunity of making it.

Now pray, Gentlemen, turn the Tables. What did you call this in the Poles Attempt upon Riga ? How oft have we entitled the Vengeance of Heaven, and the righteous Judgment of GOD, to the Glory of the Battle of Narva, and the Deposing the King of Poland ? How did we say all along, it was Divine Justice pursuing them for that most barbarous Rupture with the Swedes— And indeed while that Prince only fought to deliver himself from that unjust Insult, he was attended with singular Success— And to his possessing Saxony he was ever victorious.

But when he pursu'd his Resentment at the King of Poland to oppress a Protestant Country, when he dip't his Hands in the Blood of an innocent Captive, when he turn'd to that Left-handed Expedition of pursuing his own Revenge against the Muscovite—the Blessing forsook him— Indeed Heaven visibly call'd him, when in Saxony, to turn to the Right-hand—and to heal the Breaches of oppress'd Europe ; to stop the Issue of Blood, that exhausted Christendom, to restore Liberty, Religion, Peace, and Truth, to these Parts of the World, groaning under Tyranny and a bloody War : But he would not hear, he turn'd away from the visible Invitation—and Heaven has turn'd away from him, fill'd him with his own Ways, and brought all his haughty Designs to nought.

But is this glorious Chequer-work of Providence instructive to none but the King of Sweden? There is no doubt, but if the rest of the Priases of the World pursue unjustly their own Ambition, and feed themselves with the Miseries of their Neighbours; take Advantage of the Hand of Providence being heavy on them, to oppress and overthrow them— Almighty Power will interpose in like manner—and punish their Ambition, as he has done the other.

Besides—The Method Heaven takes in this Case, is very evident; if Men will not see it—that's their Fault—The Justice, that has corrected the King of Sweden, is plainly pointed at his personal Mistakes, and the Pride, Ambition, and Cruelty of those about him—But what is this to the Swedish Nation? — As a People, they have neither offended GOD or Man, speaking of this present Affair; they are not concern'd in the Invasion of Muscovy, or the Death of General Paskul, or in the private Conduct of their Prince, in which he might provoke Divine Justice to humble him, and put a Hook in his Nails.

But the War, as now in View, is against the Swedish Nation, to dispossess them of their Possessions in Germany, to weaken them in their Influence in Europe, to subject their Dominions to other Princes, and divide this Spoil to themselves— And in this, pardon my assuming, and forbear your Censures till the Issue—They SHALL NOT Prosper. The Claim is not from Heaven, the Success of it stands directly opposite to the Protestant Interest in Europe; and the Blessing that supports that Protestant Interest cannot be thought to attend it: The Swedes are a Capital Article in the Account of the Protestant Interest— Many a Time they have been the Bridle of the Austrian Fury, and to this Day they hold the Balance of Germany— The Protestant Churches of the whole Empire stand upon their Shoulders, and are built upon the Foundation of the Treaty of Osnaburgh, of which Swedish Valour was the Builder— Swedish Treasure the Materials, and the Swedish Blood the Cement or Mortar that bound it together.

The Interest of Sweden in Germany can not be lost to the Protestant Gaule, they cannot, they must not be lost; the Protestant Powers cannot part with them—And as long as GOD is pleas'd to uphold the Protestant Churches, I firmly believe, he will never strip them of that powerful Protector, the Swede— At least, if ever it shall please GOD to take the Swede from them, it will be more than probable, he designs to give them up—*As the Boar of the Forrest was, to break into his Church,* when the Fence was first pull'd down.

To say they are Protestant Powers that are to dispossess the Swede, is to say nothing. The Dane, and the Brandenburgher were both in Being, and both Protestant, when Ferdinand XI. over-run Germany; nay, the King of Denmark was the Head of the Protestant League, and commanded their Armies, but was overthrown by Count Tilly, and brought upon his Knees, as we may say, to the Emperor, for he was forced to forsake the Protestants; nothing could relieve the oppress'd Protestants, till the Great Gustavus Adolphus came in Person, fought the great Battle of Leipzick, restor'd Germany to her Liberty, and the Protestants to their Religion; and seal'd both with his Blood at the Battle of Lutzen, where he dy'd victorious.

Upon this War, Religion was re-edify'd; and the German Liberty restor'd— Here the Austrian Greatness receiv'd a Cheque, and the Neck of Popish Tyranny was broken. But this is not all; By the Awe of the Swedish Power, has the House of Austria been ever since curb'd, and frequently prevented from Encroachments on the German Constitution — It was by this Power, that the very Princes, that are now offering to draw their Swords against Sweden, were establish'd: Had not Gustavus Adolphus landed, had not Tilly been beaten, at the famous Battle of Leipzick, there had been no Saxon, or Prussian, or Brandenburgher left in Germany to have offer'd this new Breach; but the German Empire had been in a fair way of being dissolv'd, and Austrian Tyranny had overrun all that Part of the World.

These are the People that are now to be crush'd—And this is the War we have in View—which to me, I must confess, seems the blindest Piece of Politicks, that ever Europe suffer'd to succeed, and is a meer Felo-de-se, in which Germany is going as it were to cut her own Throat—by falling on that People, who alone are able to prevent the Emperors in Ages to come, destroying them all.

This is so evident an Attempt against the Interest and the Security of the Protestant Religion, That in full Assurance, that G O D has not yet determin'd to abandon the Protestant Cause, and knowing that Heaven, generally speaking, always works by, tho' he is not prescrib'd to Human Means; I venture to say, That if the Dane and the Prussian fall upon the Swede at this Time—They shall meet with a Disappointment, *THEY SHALL NOT HAVE SUCCESS.*

ADVERTISEMENTS.

THE United Creditors for Debts Contracted in the three last Reigns, that met formerly at Westminster, are adjourn'd to the Marine Coffee-House in Birchin Lane near the Royal-Exchange, where Attendance is given Six Days in the Week, from Eleven to Three, to receive Those that will unite with them— They have discover'd the Ways and Means by which they hope to discharge these Debts, to Three of the most Judicious Creditors, and they have declar'd their entire Satisfaction both in the Quality and Quantity of their Funds.— Persons of Quality may be attended at their Houses without Charge, by sending a Note to the Coffee-House directed to the Solicitor for the Debts of King William, &c.

Cursus Equestris Nottinghamiensis. Carmen Hexametrum, Autore RICHARDO JOHNSON, Ludi Literarij ibidem Magistro, Commentariorum Grammaticorum Scriptore. Sold by John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Price 6 d.

THese are to certify the Publick, That I John Younger o Cogg-Hall in Essex, having been blind of a Cataract for 32 Years, and about 34 Years of Age: One Roger Grant, who professes himself, and sets up for a great Oculist, boldly attempted to couch my Eye in August, 1708; but having kept his Needle working in my Eye for Half an Hour at least, put me to very great Pain, without any the least Success. But afterwards I was recommended, by the chief Gentlemen of our Town, to Sir WILLIAM READ, Her Majesty's OCULIST, in Durharm-rd in the Strand, London, in October, 1709, who couch'd me, and restor'd me to my perfect Sight in less than a Minute, without Pain or much Confinement.

I thought my self oblig'd, in Gratitude and Duty to the said Sir WILLIAM READ, to publish this; as also in Justice to the Publick, that the World may no longer be impos'd upon by Counterfeits and Pretenders. Given under my Hand, October 22, 1709.

From the Castle, the Back-Side of St. Clements. John Younger.

I Do hereby certify the Truth of the Certificate above, the said John Younger lodging then at my House, being the Sign of the Castle aforesaid; and I being then present, saw Sir WILLIAM READ perform the aforesaid Operation.

Sarah Heritage.

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* * Tuesday next will be publish'd, The Memoirs for the Curious, for the Month of June.